



GREAT ER MEKONG SUBREGION  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

RAMBOLL

# 26th Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Environment (GMS WGE AM26)

26-28 October 2022 (in-person and online)  
Holiday Inn Bangkok Sukhumvit  
Bangkok, Thailand

To join the workshop virtually, register in advance: [Zoom Link](#)

A confirmation email will be sent once registered.

**Meeting ID:** 930 7698 5514  
**Passcode:** 171629

## AGENDA

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### Background

To support the implementation of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a technical assistance (TA) entitled the GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP). This is the third and current phase of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Core Environment Program (CEP), covering 2020–2025. CCESP consists of six priority themes, which were identified during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE AM-24), held in April 2019 in Kunming, People's Republic of China (PRC). The TA will help GMS countries implement nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2, SDG 5, and SDG 13. Through enhancing capacities and enabling policies, demonstrating innovative activities, and catalyzing private sector opportunities, the TA will help develop climate-friendly projects in the GMS regional investment framework (RIF) and help the GMS realize its overarching vision of an integrated, prosperous, and equitable subregion.

The CCESP Program targets three outputs, each covering two themes:

- (i) Climate and disaster resilience enhanced (Theme 1), and low carbon transitions facilitated (Theme 2)
- (ii) Climate-smart landscapes promoted (Theme 3), and environmental quality enhanced (Theme 4)
- (iii) Green technologies (Theme 5) and financing instruments demonstrated (Theme 6)

The TA is aligned with the following impact: climate compatibility and environmental sustainability of economic growth in the GMS improved, and the following outcome: climate resilience, green growth, and environmental quality in the GMS enhanced. Three key groups of activities are planned uniformly across each of the six themes: (i) policy dialogues, (ii) capacity building, and (iii) pilot demonstrations.

In support of realizing the intentions and outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), held in 2021 in Kunming PRC, and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in 2021 in Glasgow, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE AM 26) will specifically focus on CCESP Theme 1: Building climate and disaster resilience and Theme 3: Promoting climate-smart landscapes.

The 26<sup>th</sup> GMS WGE Annual Meeting will discuss key challenges and possible solutions for the region in the light of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and in preparation on their pathway to the upcoming COP27 and COP15 in 2022. Day 1 will focus on Theme 1 building climate and disaster resilience by focusing on climate risks, challenges and possible solutions in the light of the themes identified at COP26 to tackle the root causes of climate vulnerability. Day 2 will focus on Theme 3 promoting Climate-smart Landscapes (CSL), how climate change and biodiversity loss can be addressed, and how local livelihoods can improve as a result of these measures. There will be a short field visit on Day 3.

### **WGE AM26 Objectives**

1. To share national priorities and strategies of the GMS countries to build climate resilience and strengthen biodiversity conservation
2. To examine challenges and opportunities in the light of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) for the GMS
3. To explore solutions to build climate and disaster resilience and strengthen biodiversity conservation in the GMS on their pathway to the upcoming COP27 and COP15 in 2022
4. To discuss national and subregional climate resilience and post-2020 biodiversity conservation frameworks and actions in the GMS in the context of COPs, COVID-19 and the GMS RIF
5. To agree upon priority actions for regional cooperation under the CCESP to improve climate and disaster resilience, and biodiversity conservation in the GMS

### **WGE AM – 26 Expected Output**

1. Better GMS regional understanding of the national and subregional climate resilience and biodiversity conservation frameworks and national priorities and strategies of the GMS countries to build climate resilience and strengthen biodiversity conservation
2. Challenges, opportunities and solutions identified to build climate and disaster resilience and strengthen biodiversity conservation in the GMS on their pathway to the upcoming COP27 and COP15 in 2022
3. GMS WGE Annual Meeting Summary Statement with priority actions for regional collaboration

### **Target Participants**

- GMS WGE representatives
- Representatives from GMS agencies for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation
- Academic institutions
- Relevant private sector
- Development partners
- ADB staff
- TA9915 Consultant team

## Tentative Agenda

### Day 1 – Wednesday 26 October 2022

07:30 – 08:30	<b>Registration</b>
08:30 – 09:00	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Thalearnsak Petchsuwan, Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand</li> <li>Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (SEER), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), ADB</li> </ul> <p><b>Welcome and introduction to agenda of the WGE annual meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Jens Christian Riise, TA-9915 Co-Team Leader, Capacity Building Specialist, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Specialist, and Facilitator</li> </ul>
09:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Theme 1 Session 1: National priorities and strategies to build climate and disaster resilience in the GMS towards the upcoming COP27</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, SEER, ADB</b></p> <p><b>Presentations by GMS WGE and country representatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Leang Sophal, Chief of Office, Ministry of Environment (MoE), Cambodia</li> <li>Mr. Zeyu Zhou, Senior Program Officer, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), PRC</li> <li>Mr. Malabou Baylatry, Deputy Director, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Lao PDR</li> <li>Ms. Rosalind Amornpitakpun, Director of Climate Measure and Mechanism Development Section, Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand</li> <li>Ms. Dao Minh Khue, Official, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Tea and Coffee Break and Photo</b>
10:45 - 12:00	<p><b>Theme 1 Session 2: Climate and disaster resilience, challenges, and priority actions in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Albert Salamanca, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Xi Jiao, TA-9915 Thematic Lead Building Climate and Disaster Resilience and Co-Team Leader</li> <li>Dr. Albert Salamanca, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute on Loss and Damage</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Zhaohui Qian, Senior Program Officer, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC</li> <li>Mr. Manish Tewani, Global Response Lead for the American Red Cross/ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</li> <li>Ms. Katuscia Fara, Senior Regional Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, World Food Programme</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>

13:00 – 14:15	<p><b>Theme 1 Session 3: Mainstreaming climate and disaster resilience development, and establishing multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Mr. Dao Xuan Lai, Head of Climate Change and Environment Unit, UNDP, Viet Nam</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sok Ty, TA-9915 National Adaptation Planning Specialist</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Leang Sophal, Chief of Office, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</li> <li>• Mr. Malabou Baylatry, Deputy Director, Department of Climate Change, MONRE, Lao PDR</li> <li>• Mr. Akhteruzzaman Sano, Team Leader, Save the Earth</li> <li>• Dr. Laurent Umans, Climate Change Expert, Former First Secretary Water Management and Climate Change, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Vietnam</li> </ul>
14:15 – 15:30	<p><b>Theme 1 Session 4: Enhancing community-based adaptation (CBA) and disaster risk management, and harnessing ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) and natural-based solutions in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Mr. Kevin Jeanes, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO, Lao PDR</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Noel Puno, TA-9915 Community-based CCA and DRM Specialist on CBA</li> <li>• Mr. Kevin Jeanes, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO, Lao PDR on EBA</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ouk Navann, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Local Community, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</li> <li>• Ms. Dao Minh Khue, Official, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam</li> <li>• Ms. Mayfourth Luneta, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation Inc.</li> <li>• Dr. Niladri Gupta, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center</li> <li>• Dr. Duong Nong, Lecturer, Vietnam National University of Agriculture</li> </ul>
15:30 – 15:45	<p><b>Tea and Coffee Break</b></p>
15:45 – 17:00	<p><b>Theme 1 Session 5: Identifying adaptation finance needs and gaps, and employing innovative financing instruments in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ornsaran Pomme Manuamorn, Climate and Sustainable Finance Expert, World Bank, Climate Bonds Initiative, and Fiscal Policy Research Institute</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nakhalin Vorasarn, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Finance, MONRE, Lao PDR.</li> <li>• Ms. Ying Zhou, Senior Program Officer, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC</li> <li>• Dr. Nguyen Phuong Nam, Founder Climate Innovation Consulting and Services, Klinova JSC.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kamal Ahmed, Institutional Lead, Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center</li> </ul>
17:00 – 17:15	<b>Day 1 conclusion</b>
18:00	<b>Dinner co-hosted by WGE Thailand (MONRE)</b>

## Day 2 – Thursday 27 October 2022

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Theme 3 Session 1: National priorities and strategies for biodiversity conservation and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the GMS towards the upcoming COP15</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</b></p> <p><b>Presentations by GMS WGE and country representatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Sam Oeurn Sothy Roth, Chief of Ex-situ Conservation Office, Department of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</li> <li>• Ms. Jing Guan, Senior Program Officer, Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC</li> <li>• Mr. Theverack Phonekeo, Deputy Director General of Department of Environment, MONRE, Lao PDR</li> <li>• Ms. Benchamaporn Wattanatongchai, Environmentalist, Senior Professional Level, Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand</li> <li>• Ms. Ta Thi Kieu Anh, Official, Viet Nam Environment Administration, Viet Nam</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Tea and Coffee Break and Photo</b>
10:45 – 12:00	<p><b>Theme 3 Session 2: Biodiversity conservation and post-2020 global biodiversity framework, challenges and priority actions in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Mr. Jake Brunner, Head of Indo-Burma Group, The International Union for Conservation of Nature</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Anouxay Phommalath, Land Use Planning and Spatial Analysis Specialist, and Dr. Ellyn Kathalina Damayanti, TA-9915 Thematic Lead and Landscape Management and REDD+ Specialist</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Hexiao Chen, Deputy Director, Guangxi Environmental Protection International Cooperation and Exchange Center, PRC</li> <li>• Ms. Regan Pairojmahakij, Senior Programme Officer, RECOFTC, Thailand</li> <li>• Dr. Beria Leimona, Senior Expert Landscape Governance and Investment Principal Investigator, World Agroforestry (ICRAF)</li> </ul>
12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>

13:00 – 14:15	<p><b>Theme 3 Session 3: Employing ecosystem-based approaches and natural-based solutions to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. David Ganz, Executive Director, RECOFTC</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Michael Victor Galante, Director, Climate Forestry and Secretary-General, The Alliance for Responsible Forest Management</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Sam Oeurn Sothyroth, Chief of Ex-situ Conservation Office, Department of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</li> <li>• Ms. Ta Thi Kieu Anh, Official, Viet Nam Environment Administration, Viet Nam</li> <li>• Mr. Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water, Wetlands and Nature-Based Solutions, The International Union for Conservation of Nature</li> <li>• Mr. Michal Zrust, Co-Founder and CEO, Lestari Capital</li> </ul>
14:15 – 15:30	<p><b>Theme 3 Session 4: Mobilizing effective financial resources, and leveraging private finance, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning in the GMS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</b></p> <p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Jiayi Xu, Programmes Director, Greenovation Hub, and Ms. Yunwen Bai, Director of Financing Nature Based Solutions Centre, Institute of Finance and Sustainability/Senior Researcher, Greenovation Hub, China</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nakhalin Vorasarn, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Finance, MONRE, Lao PDR</li> <li>• Dr. Yang Bai, Researcher, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, PRC</li> <li>• Mr. Michal Zrust, Co-Founder and CEO, Lestari Capital</li> <li>• Ms. Niran Nirannoot, Project Manager, BIOFIN Thailand: The Biodiversity Finance Initiative, United Nations Development Programme</li> </ul>
15:30 – 15:45	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>
15:45 – 17:00	<p><b>Discussion priority actions for regional cooperation under the CCESP to improve climate and disaster resilience, and biodiversity conservation in the GMS towards COP15 and COP27</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</b></p>
17:00 – 17:15	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</li> </ul>
18:00	<b>Dinner co-hosted by ADB</b>

### Day 3 – Friday 28 October 2022

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
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9:00 – 11:30	<p><b>CCESP recap and way forward (for WGE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Jens Christian Riise, TA-9915 Co-Team Leader, Capacity Building Specialist, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Specialist, and Facilitator</li> <li>• TA-9915 Thematic Leads</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback and expectations by GMS WGE representatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Loeung Kesaro, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</li> <li>• Mr. Jun Zhou, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC</li> <li>• Mr. Theverack Phonekeo, Deputy Director General of Department of Environment, MONRE, Lao PDR</li> <li>• Representative from WGE Thailand</li> <li>• Dr. Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, Director of Science Technology and International Cooperation Department, Institute of Strategy, Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, ISPONRE, Viet Nam</li> </ul>
8:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Field Visit to Wastevegetable rooftop farm including presentation, Q&amp;A, and discussions</b></p>